

Minutes of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee

January 17, 2014

Chair Peter Wolff called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: County Board Supervisors Peter Wolff, Janel Brandtjen, Larry Nelson, Dave Zimmerman, Fritz Ruf and Michael Crowley. **Absent:** Supervisor Keith Hammitt.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Legislative Associate Karen Phillips, Sheriff Dan Trawicki, Captain Jeff Smidt, Director of Victim/Witness Services Jennifer Dunn, Deputy District Attorney Sue Oppen, Director of Emergency Preparedness Gary Bell, Senior Financial Analyst Aaron Daul, Darryl Enriquez of the Freeman, Megan Sullivan of Mueller Communications and Ron Frea.

Approve Minutes of December 17, 2013

MOTION: Brandtjen moved, second by Ruf to approve the minutes of December 17, 2013. Motion carried 6-0.

Future Agenda Items

- Presentation on the Waukesha County Mass Fatality Plan by Mark Stigler
- CAD System Update
- Overview of Emergency Preparedness Programs and Activities
- Overview of the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit

Next Meeting Date

- February 14, 2014

Courthouse Security Update

Smidt stated he has been head of the Sheriff's Department - Court Services Division since January 2011. Under a memorandum of understanding with Circuit Court Services, sworn deputies are assigned as bailiffs to provide security to the circuit courts and court commissioners, and to transport prisoners as needed. When bailiffs are not in court they are assigned to patrol the government center campus and assist civilian security screeners that staff the screening stations at the Courthouse entrance and Health and Human Services (HHS) building.

Nelson asked if incident statistics are tracked. Smidt stated yearly statistics are tracked and presented to the Security and Facilities Committee on a quarterly basis. The quarterly report will be presented at their next meeting. Wolff noted he would be attending the meeting, which is scheduled for January 28, 2014, at 12:15 p.m., and will report back to the committee regarding the quarterly statistics as presented.

Smidt provided examples of some recent average statistics:

- Approximately 1000 citizens enter the courthouse, a few hundred enter the HHS building, and about 150 enter the juvenile center on daily basis
- At the courthouse entrance approximately 12 persons per month are turned away for failure to comply with screening regulations (tools, knives, etc.,)
- Annually approximately 350 arrests are made in the courthouse, many of which are warrant arrests

Annual security training is provided for courts, administration and HHS staff with a goal preventing problems before they occur. Security screening staff does an excellent job, but no system is 100% effective; however, the vast majority of incidents are headed off at the door.

Overview of the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department Dive Team

Smidt stated he has been the commander of the dive team since 2006. The dive team is made of eleven members, including two supervisors, a surface support staff person to maintain equipment, and eight divers. The primary statutory responsibility of the dive team is to recover drowning victims/human remains from bodies of water within the County, but also may at times assist with rescue and evidence recovery.

In response to Crowley's question, Smidt discussed the status of equipment and training requirements. The team trains monthly no matter the weather conditions (except lightning). They are extensively well trained, though sometimes funding for ongoing training is a challenge. The equipment is in good condition and is meticulously maintained; however, two dive suits, purchased in 1997, will need to be replaced soon. The breathing apparatus/regulators are top-notch, state of the art equipment.

Trawicki stated the process of procuring the new dive truck is moving forward. An ordinance will be presented in February to approve the use of asset forfeiture funds to purchase a new boat for the dive team/boat patrol.

Update on the Digital Radio System Project

Bell was present to discuss the progress of the digital radio system project.

- Waukesha County signed a contract with Motorola Solutions, Inc. at the end of 2013, which includes subscriber equipment discounts. (Milwaukee County also signed a contract.)
- Waukesha County will add two radio towers (Town of Lisbon and Town of Vernon), increasing from a seven to a nine site simulcast system to improve coverage.

Bell briefly reviewed the project background at Brandtjen's request. Spaeth referred the Committee members to page 507 in the 2014 budget book for details of the financial components of the project.

Bell reviewed the timeline for the project. The goal is for Waukesha County to have the new system operational by the end of 2014. Milwaukee County's timeline is longer, estimated at perhaps two-years or more. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Waukesha County and Milwaukee County is still in still a work in progress.

Wolff asked if there has been any pushback from municipalities on the digital radio system project. Bell stated there were some questions early on, but now there is better understanding of the project and how it will be accomplished.

Overview of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program

Dunn and Oppen were present to provide an overview of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program.

The Victim/Witness Program is mandated by state statute to ensure that victims of criminal offenses are kept informed of case progress to final disposition. Victims and witnesses are prepared for testimony, escorted to court, and assisted in obtaining witness fees and crime victim compensation. Victims also receive assistance with victim impact statements and temporary restraining orders.

Mobile Victim Assistance, a crisis response program, provides 24-hour assistance to victims at crime scenes. Social workers and volunteers give emotional support to victims, provide information about the criminal justice system and make referrals to community resources. Grant funding provided through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fully funds this program.

Dunn distributed and reviewed a packet of information which included a list of victims rights, samples of various forms and letters used to contact and assist victims, and pamphlets titled “Crime Victim Information” and “Mobile Victim Assistance”. Dunn gave an overview of an actual Waukesha County homicide case to illustrate the extent of services provided to the friends and family of victims by the Victim/Witness Assistance Program.

Legislative Update

Spaeth distributed and reviewed a handout outlining current legislation, relative to judiciary and law enforcement, which is progressing through the state legislature.

AB 387 (SB308) pertains to the age at which a person is subject of juvenile court jurisdiction. There is some concern about the \$10 million fiscal impact to counties for services they provide juveniles. The Senate Executive Committee passed an amendment on January 15 that would provide an additional \$2.5 million in Youth Aid funding for counties.

AB445 (SB353), AB446 (SB352), AB447, and AB448 (SB351), part of the HOPE (Heroin Opiate Prevention and Education) package of bills aimed at combating heroin use, are making their way through committees. Waukesha County is very supportive of these bills.

Two other bills circulating relate to the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) grant program and 911 funding. The TAD funding bill proposes an additional \$3 million for more alcohol and drug treatment courts throughout Wisconsin. Next week, Senator Leibham will introduce legislation that would reduce the amount of taxes assessed on phone bills in Wisconsin while funding efforts to maintain and enhance emergency 911 systems across the state.

MOTION: Brandtjen moved, second by Ruf to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Fritz Ruf
Secretary